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News Release

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Two St. Paul men plead guilty to distributing methamphetamine

The second of two defendants pleaded guilty today in federal court in connection with distributing more than 500 grams of the highly addictive and dangerous drug, methamphetamine.

Johnny Lee Blevins, 22, St. Paul, entered his plea May 13 in Minneapolis before United States District Court Judge John Tunheim. Blevins pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine. The first defendant, Edgar Manuel Sierra-Serrano, 29, St. Paul, also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy. Sierra-Serrano, aka Bullico, entered his plea May 12 in Minneapolis before Judge Tunheim. Both defendants were indicted Feb. 5.

According to their respective plea agreements, the two conspired to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute approximately 724 grams of methamphetamine.

According to an affidavit filed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Sierra-Serrano is a member of the Latin Kings Gang. He and Blevins sold methamphetamine during several "arranged controlled buys" in January 2008 at Sierra-Serrano's St. Paul residence, including amounts of 54 and 165 grams.

During an executed search warrant of Sierra-Serrano's residence on Jan. 10, officers recovered approximately \$7,000 in cash, along with Latin King gang paraphernalia. During an executed search warrant of Blevins' residence, police recovered approximately 425 grams of methamphetamine, along with a loaded .45-caliber handgun.

Both Sierra-Serrano and Blevins face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison and a \$4 million fine. Judge Tunheim will determine their sentences at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the ATF, the Dakota County Sheriff's Office and the St. Paul Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.

